

# Department of Justice High-Risk Metropolitan Area Interoperability Assistance Project *New York City, New York*



## Addressing Interoperability Gaps

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Wireless Management Office (WMO) worked with New York City (NYC) metropolitan area local, state, and federal public safety agencies to identify communications gaps and solutions to resolve them as a part of the High-Risk Metropolitan Area Interoperability Assistance Project. To accomplish the project, DOJ began working with the City of New York Interagency Communications Committee to identify federal participants to join the local and state agency members. Following the addition of several new participating agencies, the group formed a DOJ interoperability committee.

## Solution Development

The interoperability committee determined that area agencies did not have a common interoperability channel to communicate on during an incident response. Therefore, the committee chose to leverage existing resources and to build out new capabilities to provide interoperability in and around the NYC metropolitan area.

The interoperability committee is now supporting implementation and use of the new solutions. This committee has been developing new operating procedures to ensure efficient usage of the new interoperability capabilities.

## Participating Agencies

The agencies with improved interoperability as a result of the DOJ initiative in the NYC metropolitan area are—

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
- Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Protective Service
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department
- Nassau County Police Department
- NYC Department of Corrections
- NYC Fire Department
- NYC Police Department (NYPD)
- NYC Office of Emergency Management
- New York State Park Police
- New York State Police
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Suffolk County Police
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Marshals Service
- U.S. Park Police
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)
- U.S. Secret Service
- Westchester County Public Safety

## Solution Description

Participating New York public safety agencies chose to procure new equipment, as well as leverage their existing interoperability resources, by identifying a five-part interoperability solution set to improve wide-area interoperable communications.

The first solution provided a single site 350 watt VHF repeater with 14 voted receiver sites to enhance wide-area federal interagency communications. This federal interoperability channel can be wirelessly linked, via control stations, to the NYPD Dispatch Center, USPIS, and DEA.

The second solution leveraged 11 existing TRP-1000 units owned by partner agencies in the NYC metropolitan area. The interoperability committee identified the units as the primary mechanism for improving interagency communications at the scene of major emergencies. DOJ purchased additional radios, cables, and other accessories to fully integrate these units into the partner agencies' emergency communications processes.

The third solution provided 56 radio base stations to support operation on a Westchester County interoperability radio channel. This interoperability channel leverages an existing frequency pair and a new countywide repeater system, and is designated for interagency communications.

The fourth solution provided assistance in developing standard operating procedures for requesting and deploying the mobile TRP-1000's at incident scenes.

The fifth solution provided a new TRP-1000 audio switch equipped with 9 mobile radios on various bands to the Nassau County Police Department. This switch is installed in a mobile vehicle for deployment throughout the area.

## Exercises

Communications exercises provide an opportunity for users to gain experience with new equipment in a controlled environment. In July 2004, 14 local, state, and federal agencies participated in a series of three communications exercises to test the new equipment and interoperability capabilities. The goals of the communications exercises were to increase awareness of the deployable audio switches, evaluate trained personnel, and demonstrate the procedural complexities of using the interoperability solutions.



## Contact Information

If you would like to know more about this initiative or have questions, please contact—

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